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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Statement submitted by International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/CN.6/2008/1.

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Statement

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers has analysed the priority theme of the 52nd C.S.W. Session — Financing for Gender Equality and empowerment of women — and considers that the increase of economic and social inequality, either between or inside countries, obstructs the development of Human Rights and generates new social conflicts.

Poverty still has the face of a woman of a less developed country and affects millions of women, making impossible their personal autonomy, and increasing their vulnerability and risk of suffering from all kinds of violence, from domestic and family abuse to sexual and labour exploitation.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers warns of the persistence of the fact, denounced in 1995 by the Beijing Platform for Action, that in countries with economic adjustment programs, privatisation of public services and reduction of social programs, women are responsible for new obligations to avoid the effects of the reduction of public social budgets on their own families. Particularly women in rural areas and female migrant workers suffer in a major way from these effects since they are forced to support a heavier burden of non-paid work.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers it vital to study in depth the complex, political, social and economic phenomena inherent to globalization in order to know how to utilize globalization in the promotion of Women's Human Rights.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers thinks that urgent measures should be taken by the international community in order to reduce the weight of external debt on the least developed countries, either by cancelling the debt for those countries whose people reach misery, or by fulfilling the commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of the Gross National Product of the developed countries to Official Development Assistance.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers regards as fundamental that all Governments as well as national and international economic and financial institutions review the procedure of creating National Accounting systems in order to recognise and account for the economic value of women contribution in wealth production with their non-remunerated labour, especially domestic and family work.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers believes that it is indispensable to integrate a gender perspective in the evaluation of economic and social policies, namely by the adoption of gender sensitive budgets, in order to make women fully participate in all economic, social and political decision, and consequently achieve a real and effective women empowerment.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers debated last October in Lisbon (Portugal) the theme "Women, Wars and Law" and, on the subject of the 52nd C.S.W. Session review theme, has concluded that it is essential for all States to implement National Action Plans in order to put into practice the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers that all legal texts of International Humanitarian Law should be interpreted and applied with a gender perspective, meaning that the different impacts that wars have upon women and men should be taken in consideration, in order to reduce the grade of violence against women.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers it indispensable that all military and police personnel involved with Peace-keeping Missions should receive an education on a gender sensitive International Humanitarian Law.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers believes that the spread of the International Humanitarian Law favours respect for Human Rights.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers appeals to all States to effectively engage in the accomplishment of the International Criminal Court mandate.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers denounces the fact that the impunity of the perpetrators of the atrocities of war or of Human Rights violations has its origin in political and economic interests.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers warns that wars are sought for the profit that results from the weapons trade, from the reconstruction of devastated countries and from the exploitation of the resources of those countries.

The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers considers that the corporations and collective persons that are the perpetrators of economic aggression leading to war should be held criminally responsible for their acts.